

C.S.

SECRET.

WAR/W2I/1#5

19 40

No.

S/47/40.

NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT.

19 40.

27th August.

ORDINARY SEAMAN MAHR - H.M.S. "BALTAZIA".

Previous Paper.

ACTIVITIES OF -

MINUTES.

1-3.

Letter from Naval Officer in Charge, 27/8/40.

O.C.D.F.,

For your observations please.

for C. S.
28/8/40.

Honourable Colonial Secretary.

Minute at which please

[Signature]

28. VIII. 40

4-5.

N.O. 1/c.

Order 11. of 1939 sec 2. is the authority.

[Signature] 31/VIII/40

6.

Draft letter N.O. 1/c to D.N.I.

H.C.S. Propose forward in report as in Red (6) - do you think this meets the case?

[Signature] 3.9.40

Subsequent Paper.

N.O. 1/c 4/c. *[Signature]* 7/9/40

H.C.S. Many thanks. Minute returned for filing.

[Signature] 9.9.40

C O P Y .

①

From ... The Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Stanley.

Date ... 15th August, 1940.

To ... The Rear Admiral Commanding South America Division.

Ordinary Seaman MAHR - HMS Baltavia.

The Commanding Officer, HMS Baltavia, has reported
been
to me that the above rating has found to be in communication
with certain persons now interned locally for being connected
with Fascist and other such organizations(enclosed is letter to
Hamn, who was found to be an active agent). His Excellency has
refused to allow Mahr to be landed and I have instructed the
Commanding Officer, HMS Baltavia, to report to you with a view
to his being returned to the United Kingdom.

(SGD) R.B. Martin,
Commander, R.N.

②

For use in
Cypher or
Coding Office
only.

Originators Instructions:
(Indication of Priority,
AIDAC, NOTWT
For Exercise).

INTERCEPT GROUP.

TO:

Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Stanley.

FROM:

R.A.S.A.D.

Your letter 13th August.

Ordinary Seaman MAHR is being sent to the United Kingdom. Forward direct to the Director of Naval Intelligence, with copy to me, any information you have of his activities including reason why he was not allowed to land in Port Stanley.

10322/26.

Book or Table to be used for

Cyphering or Coding.

Recyphering or Recoding.

Initials of Cypherer
or Coder.Time of Receipt in
Cypher or Coding
Office.

Date.

(3)



From ... The Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Stanley.

Date ... 27th August, 1940.

To ... The Honourable, the Colonial Secretary,
The Falkland Islands.

Ordinary Seaman MAHR - HMS 'Baltavia'.

The attached signal has been received by me from the Rear Admiral Commanding South America Division. It would be much appreciated if the information asked for may be given (in duplicate).

R B Markin

Commander, R.N.

3 Men off the Baltavia namely, Berry, Marr, & Myles, meet at Brechins and their actions are suspicious. (4)

Maid working there told of these happenings.

She said they met there and did quite a lot of writing some times behind locked doors, and then Brechin himself type it out, and if anyone happened to call there the papers were quickly disposed of.

Marr told my sister one night at a dance while under the influence of drink, that Myles was his best friend and that he was sorry he was in hospital, he went on to say that it was all his own fault he was there. Then he told her that Myles was tired of working here so he acted insane so as to be sent away, but he was not sent away and the Doctor will not be convinced that Myles is alright, said Marr.

So we came to the conclusion that he new all he wanted to know and acted like that to get away, perhaps with some valuable information.

Mrs Brechins' father was a German. He was in jail here in the last war.

No. S/47/40

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

28th. August 1940 19

From C.C.D.F.

To The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

You will recall that the first that was heard of this matter was the receipt by you of a communication handed to you at your house on the 11th August by a private in the Defence Force. I attach this document. While we were discussing the matter on the following morning in your office a telephone message was received from the Naval Officer in Charge reporting that the Captain of H.M.S. Baltavia had handed him two letters from Mahr on which he wished to consult me. I eventually saw Commander Martin and he handed me the two letters which I subsequently returned to him for dispatch with the other relevant documents to the R.A.S.A.D. One of the letters was to the internee Hamm on the Fennia, thanking him for the loan of his typewriter and generally was written in a tone that at least indirectly expressed sympathy with the political views of Hamm. The other letter was, so Mahr subsequently alleged, written to his mother, a point that I still do not believe. It was filled with subversive statements and generally shewed him to be a person who could well be dealt with under Section 17 (1) of the Defence Regulations as amended by the Defence (Amendment) Regulations, 1940. With the consent of The N.O.i/c I went with Captain of Baltavia on board his ship to examine ^MBahr and the other men mentioned and took Sub.Lt. Carr R.N.V.R. with me to search their effects. Myles was at the time and still is I believe a patient in the Hospital. The examination of the two men produced little information of value other than the admission that they had written the letters in the case of Mahr and that they had been in the habit of writing matter in a room in Stanley as originally reported. The subject matter of these writings was articles for newspapers and the reason advanced for the secrecy was generally deduced to be that the writings were of a pornographic nature.

As a result of the very excellent search made by Sub.Lt. Carr a large quantity of writings, correspondence etc, were seized and

were eventually handed to the N.O.i/c for dispatch to the R.A.S.A.D. In the short time available, (the Baltavia was due to sail the next day), only a preliminary scrutiny of these documents was possible, but this little was sufficient to convince me that the man was a dangerous type to be at large and that he should be interned at least until further consideration could be given to his case. He was said to have admitted that he had been an active member of the I.R.A.

On these grounds I recommended that he be interned and made this proposition to you accordingly and commenced to make the necessary arrangements for his internment.

As to the other persons concerned or mentioned, I questioned Mr. Brechin and he declared that although he rented a room to Bahr, ^M he ^{Kuus} nothing of what transpired in that room but had never had any trouble from his tenants. Hamm ^{ad}mitted passing the typewriter to Mahr when as a member of the crew of the Roydur he was alongside the Fennia. I gave necessary instructions to the guards to prevent such a disgraceful event recurring. Berry was I feel led away by a perverted form of "hero-worship" and was himself not vicious. Anita Browning who was I understand at least Bahr's 'girl friend' if no more has not been interviewed, as I considered that her writings in the correspondence seized merely reflected Bahr's views for 'private ^M business reasons". Myles who was and still is in Hospital I believe, was found in rather suspicious circumstances by the personnel of Sapper Hill Battery, but following investigations at that time, I do not think that he was implicated.

Arthur Woodfat.

Major.
O.C. Defence Force.

6.

SECRET.

ORDINARY SEAMAN JOHN FRANCIS MAHER, H.M.S. "BALTAZIA".

FROM..... The NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE, PORT STANLEY.

DATE.....

No. _____

TO..... THE DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

(Copy to REAR ADMIRAL COMMANDING SOUTH AMERICA DIVISION.)

During a recent comb-out for Fifth Column activities, carried out by the Colonial Government, certain men were ordered to be interned, among these was a man called MAHER. The C.O. H.M.S. "Baltavia" having intercepted a letter from Maher to this man and reported the matter to me, I got into touch with the Colonial Secretary and was informed that this man's behaviour ashore had aroused suspicions. He and others were meeting secretly ashore and writing in a locked room, the matter being typed out by the owner of the room, a man named BRECHIN whose father was a German. All papers were quickly disposed of in the event of any interruption.

It was decided that Maher should be detained for examination by the local authorities. I arranged for a search of his belongings and a large quantity of correspondence was collected. His Excellency then decided that he would not allow the man to be landed and H.M.S. "Baltavia" was sailing on the day the command was given, I considered that he should be returned to U.K. All correspondence found in his possession was handed to C.O. H.M.S. "Baltavia" with instructions to report to R.A.S.A.D. on meeting.

I have been informed that His Excellency in refusing to allow the man to be landed, acted in accordance with Ordinance 11 of 1959, Section 2, Clause 7A, which states :- "Notwithstanding anything contained in this Ordinance it shall be lawful for the Governor, in his absolute discretion, to prohibit the entry into the Colony or its Dependencies of any person not being a native of the Colony."

